

NAPIA



VOL.15

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NAPIA is a newsletter issued by Nagasaki International Association for foreign residents.



Introduction to the Nagasaki International Association

Have you heard of the Nagasaki International Association?

We promote international exchange by acting as a bridge between Nagasaki and a variety of countries from all over the world. We provide a wide range of information on life in Nagasaki and opportunities for international exchange. This edition of NAPIA contains more detailed information on specific activities and events that we hold.

We are open every week,

Monday to Friday, from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm. Our lobby contains many books, pamphlets and other materials that are free to access, and we also regularly hold Japanese culture classes.



Spring Events Information

Please enjoy the various events!

Opening the Storehouse 17th-18th March Venue: Kinokawa Co.

When they say "opening the storehouse," what they mean is that it is the first time they will have been opened this year. Inside these will be sake and shochu.

Taste-testing will also be offered, so do take this opportunity to try some Japanese alcohol!

Further details at <http://www.kinokawa.co.jp>

TEL: 0957-22-5600



Edition

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Omura Flower Festival Venue: Omura Park

- Late March until late April → → → Cherry blossoms
- Early April until early May → → → Rhododendron
- Late May until mid-June → → → Iris

Come out and see the many beautiful flowers which bloom during the festival period.

See here for more details: <http://www.e-oomura.jp/hana/1.php>

Unzen City All-Kyushu Fireworks Tournament 1st April (Sun) 20 : 00-

Venue: Obama Marine Park . . . 5min walk from Obama bus terminal (Shimatetsu bus)



Pyrotechnicians from all over Kyushu pit their fireworks displays against each other in this tournament, with the view from Obama harbour packing particular punch!

<http://obama.or.jp/modules/event/>

Nagushiyama Azelea Festival Early April until early May

Viewed from above or below, this is like a carpet of flowers. You can also see the entirety of the Kujukushima islands. Both the azalea and the islands are extremely beautiful, but to make sure you visit at the best time, check on the website when



the flowers are due to bloom fully. The entrance fee for adults is around 500 yen.

Enquire below for further details:

Parks and Greenery Division, Urban Development Department

TEL : 0956-25-9628 <http://www.nagushiyama.jp/page1.html>

Nagasaki Tall Ships Festival 2012 26th – 30th April

Venue: Nagasaki Mizubenomori Park, Dejima Wharf area

During this period, boats you wouldn't normally come across jostle for space in Nagasaki harbour, and there are even some you can go inside! For more details, check out the schedule on the website: <http://www1.city.nagasaki.nagasaki.jp/hansen/>



Hasami Pottery Festival

29th April – 5th May 9:00-17:00

Venue: Yakimono Park (Pottery Park)

Hasami has long been renowned for its pottery, and this festival will be held in Yakimono Park (Pottery Park).

Here, around 130 potters and businesses will set up displays in various large tents. Last year 270,000 people came to check out the pottery, which runs the whole gamut of prices. With so much different tableware on display, browsing alone is a lot of fun!

Hasami Pottery Festival Executive Committee TEL 0956-85-2214

Children's Day

We Japanese call today, May 5, "Children's Day," and it is a national holiday. It used to be called *Tango-no-sekku* before WW II.

We used to celebrate this day by wishing that the boys would grow up to be healthy and strong, but now it has been established as *Children's Day* and we hope for the good health of every girl and boy.

We put up carp streamers outside, called *Koi-nobori*-Carp are thought to be strong and powerful fish and are even thought to be able to swim up waterfalls.

So, families with boys celebrate this day by hoisting carp streamers.



We also display warrior helmets and other things inside the house. These express our strong desire for boys to become brave men.

The special food for this day is *Kashiwa-mochi*. This is a kind of soft *mochi*. It is wrapped in an oak leaf, and inside is *anko* bean jam.



Have you ever tried this Japanese sweet? If not, please try it under the clear blue May sky.



May is such a beautiful time of the year in Japan.



What is 'hanami'?




In Japanese, 'hanami' means 'cherry blossom viewing'. In spring, when cherry blossoms are in full bloom, people picnic underneath cherry trees. People bring foods they like to eat, such as boxed lunches and deserts. Some people drink alcohol, such as beer and rice wine, while they view the cherry blossoms. People gather in parks with colleagues and family members to

celebrate the arrival of warm weather and beautiful scenery.

Many people continue to view the cherry blossoms late into the night on plastic tarpaulin mats. In Japanese, 'yozakura' means 'to view cherry blossoms at night'. In many parks throughout Japan, the cherry trees are illuminated with floodlights and the view is fantastic.

Near the end of *hanami* season, the cherry blossoms begin to fall and scatter like snowflakes. In Japanese, these cherry blossom snowflakes are referred to as 'sakura fubuki'. To Japanese people, the beauty and the short life of cherry blossoms symbolize the grace and transience of life. Although *hanami* season usually only lasts about two weeks, it is a time of excitement, new life and hope. In Japanese, the proverb 'hana yori dango' means that sweet foods are preferred to flowers. In essence, this means that cherry blossoms only satisfy an abstract desire, while food and drink satisfy a more important concrete desire in humans.

 **Hanami Necessities** >>> Mat to sit on, food, drink, rubbish bags
Make sure you take your own rubbish back with you!

 **Hanami Spots in Nagasaki** >>> Tateyama Park (Nagasaki city)
Kazagashira Park (Nagasaki city)
Tokenyama Park (Obama, Unzen city)

The Food Stephanie Only Found Out About After She Came To Japan

Hello everyone. When you came to Japan, were there any foods that surprised you when you first saw them? I imagine that those of you who studied Japanese language and culture probably already knew about *natto* and *miso* before you arrived.

Here, I'll introduce some of the foods Stephanie, from the UK, found strange when she first tried them in Japan.

Konnyaku

On the third day after Stephanie arrived in Japan, her university dormitory gave them *buta-jiru* (pork *miso* soup) to eat. And inside it was something grey..

"What's that? Ew!" And thus went Stephanie's first meeting with *konnyaku* (also known as "devil's tongue").

Japanese people often eat *buta-jiru* during the cold wintertime. It's made with pork, vegetables, *konnyaku* and *miso*.



Have you seen the "*Mannan raifu no konnyaku-batake*" TV commercial? The colour and shape are different but that's also *konnyaku*. *Konnyaku* is low in calories and said to be good for your digestive system, which is why it's used in dieting products such as this.

Shishamo



There came a time when Stephanie ate a certain grilled fish. "What's this? This isn't normal fish!" she thought. In fact, it was *shishamo*, a fish which is filled with its own eggs.

Do any of you have a tradition of eating fish eggs in your countries?



Apparently they're not normally eaten in Stephanie's homeland. In Japan we have no qualms about eating fish eggs – we eat *tarako* (cod roe), *mentaiko* (spicy cod roe), *kazunoko* (herring roe) and *ikura* (salmon roe), amongst others! For those of you who are a bit wary of fish eggs, I would recommend *tarako* spaghetti. It's really delicious –



even kids love it! You can also make it at home, so why not have a go at doing it yourself?

Yakisoba-pan

When Stephanie came across this, her first thought was apparently, “You can’t put noodles in bread!” However, *yakisoba-pan* is really tasty so please try it! You can find it in any Japanese bakery.



Youth International Understanding Lessons

Recently we held Youth International Understanding lessons at Mihara Municipal Elementary School, Isahaya Higashi Senior High School and Seidou Mikawa-dai Senior High School. At Mihara ES we introduced the students to UK and Chinese culture, and Korean culture at Isahaya Higashi SHS and Seido SHS. When you listen directly to natives of these countries it makes them feel much closer, something you don’t get from a textbook. I hope that the children appreciate their time spent with these teachers.



Chatting in Japanese by Tra Thi Phuong Nga

My name is Tra Thi Phuong Nga, and I’m a trainee from Vietnam working at the International Association. I’m sure all of you want to practice your Japanese once you come to Japan. Every Thursday there is a “Chatting in Japanese” class here which I also participate in, and I’ve learnt a lot from the volunteer teachers. I’ve had a really great time there but, unfortunately, I will be returning home to Vietnam this March. It’s a really great chance to practice your Japanese, so why don’t you come along and try it out? I really recommend it!

We are currently looking for volunteers!

Anyone interested in international exchange is welcome to apply. Come join us!

1. Giving presentations about home country at elementary and middle schools
2. Writing articles for our magazine NAPIA (Japanese, English or Chinese)

If you are interested please contact us at nia@nia.or.jp.



Home Stay & Home Visits for Overseas Students

Would you like to visit family in Nagasaki and stay at their home to experience daily life in Japan? Not only Nagasaki-city but also Omura, Sasebo, Unzen, Shimabara, Goto, Iki-city are available.

- One-day home stay (if you want more days, please ask)
- Home visit: no overnight stay
- * FREE of charge (**generosity of the host family**)
- * Costs & dining-out expenses



Chatting in Japanese

Would you like to spend time with locals interested in meeting international residents in the city and practice your Japanese? No textbook is required! Just practice speaking in Japanese and make new friends!

- Day: Every Thursday, 13:30–17:00
* Please contact us to find out the detail
Cost: Free



*Location: Nagasaki International Association

If you have any comments or suggestions about NAPIA, Please let me know

Nagasaki International Association

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